

Bedfordshire County Council

Education Committee

REPORT

of the

School Medical Officer

for the year ended

31st December 1951



BEDFORD
HENRY BURT & SON LTD.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BEDFORDSHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the School Health Service for the year 1951.

There were no staff changes during the year, and this fact facilitated the work of the Service. It was not possible, however, to meet the requirements with regard to annual routine medical inspection of schools, but it would not appear that in the conditions prevailing this fact need cause anxiety.

The general condition of the children examined was again found to be satisfactory and there was once more a substantial drop in the number of children found to be unclean.

With regard to Infectious Diseases, it is most pleasing to be able to report that in the whole County there was only one case of diphtheria and that for the fifth year in succession there was no death from the disease. The County was also fortunate, as compared with recent years, in its experience of Poliomyelitis. The figures for Tuberculosis given in Tables V and VI are in accordance with the accepted epidemiology of that disease. Measles continued to show the now familiar departure from its former two-yearly cycle.

Increasing demands are being made on the Child Guidance Service, and not all of them can be met. Reference is made in the text to the opening of the Heathwood Hostel at Leighton Buzzard. Much was done to give this venture a good start and its progress will be watched with interest.

Reference was made in last year's Report to the possibility of employing dental ancillaries and so making possible a more complete dental service. Progress is now being made and the Senior Dental Officer deals with the matter in his Report.

I desire to thank my professional colleagues, the teachers, and the clerical staff for their most helpful co-operation.

To the members of the Education Committee I desire to tender, on behalf of the School Health Department, our most grateful thanks for their sympathetic administration.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. C. V. BROTHWOOD,

School Medical Officer.

23rd June, 1952.

STAFF

(as at 31st December, 1951)

County School Medical Officer

W. C. V. BROTHWOOD, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

Deputy School Medical Officer

C. A. HARVEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officers

BRENDA N. AKEROYD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

ELIZABETH E. BROWN, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

DORA S. JAMES, M.B., B.S., D.Obst.R.C.O.G.

M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.

IRENE E. SANDFORD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CICELY STEER, M.B., B.S., D.C.H.

Senior Dental Officer

R. B. T. DINSDALE, L.D.S.

Assistant Dental Officers

A. P. ATKINS, L.D.S.

GLADYS M. BASFORD, L.D.S. (part-time)

A. A. GARDNER, B.D.S.

Psychiatrist

S. P. CASTELL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (part-time)

Psychiatric Social Worker

MARGARET MILLINGTON, M.A.

Orthoptist

JOAN M. TALLYN, D.B.O.S.

Speech Therapist

BARBARA D. BARTON, L.C.S.T.

There were no changes in staff during the year.

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the Administrative County of Bedford is 302,942 acres. Schemes of Divisional Administration operated in the Boroughs of Bedford and Luton.

According to the Registrar General, the estimated home and child populations of the Administrative County and these Boroughs at the 30th June, 1951, were as follows:—

			<i>All ages</i>	<i>Under 15 years</i>
County Area ...	...	...	155,280	31,680
Bedford Borough ...	...	...	54,120	11,885
Luton Borough ...	...	...	109,600	25,145
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Administrative County ...	...	...	319,000	68,710
			<hr/>	<hr/>

The following Table shows the number of schools in the County, excluding Bedford and Luton, on 31st December, 1951, and the number of children on the rolls.

<i>Type of School</i>			<i>No. of Schools</i>	<i>No. on Rolls</i>
Nursery ...	...	...	2	111
Primary ...	...	...	129	13,886
Secondary ...	...	...	12	3,164
Grammar ...	...	...	3	803
Special ...	...	...	1	99
			<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS ...	...	...	147	18,063
			<hr/>	<hr/>

MEDICAL INSPECTION

Medical Inspection is carried out in the schools. Children examined fall into three main divisions:—

- (a) “Entrants”—those who enter upon school life for the first time and whose ages are usually from 5–6 years.
- (b) “Intermediates”—all children who are in their last year at a primary school, or in the case of Full-Range Schools, those children who are at the age of 10–11 years.
- (c) “Leavers”—pupils attending a Secondary Modern or Primary Full-Range School in their last year, i.e., at the age of 14–15 years.

In addition, children are specially presented for examination by teachers, school enquiry officers, parents and others because some defect is present or is suspected. Sometimes they are discovered by the Medical

Officer or nurse in a general inspection of the school. All children who at a previous examination were found to have some defect or who required observation are also seen.

Parents are encouraged to attend the medical inspection and 65 per cent attended in 1951.

The number of children inspected in the periodic age groups was 5,557. The number of special inspections was 1,623. One hundred and twenty-nine schools were inspected during the year.

The Ministry of Education Building Regulations provide for a medical and dental inspection and treatment room in all new schools. At present very few schools have adequate facilities for the medical and dental inspection and treatment of pupils. The high intake of the last few years and the raising of the school leaving age have added to the difficulties of teachers, school doctors and dentists.

TABLE I.—NUMBER OF DEFECTS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT
OR OBSERVATION AT MEDICAL INSPECTIONS DURING 1951.

Defect or Disease	No. of Defects			
	For Treatment		For Observation	
	Periodic Inspection	Special Inspection	Periodic Inspection	Special Inspection
Skin	18	2	44	8
Eyes—				
(a) Vision	279	129	225	87
(b) Squint	37	20	39	23
(c) Other	11	1	17	2
Ears—				
(a) Hearing	10	6	31	16
(b) Otitis Media	2	1	30	9
(c) Other	8	2	14	6
Nose or Throat	196	118	315	134
Speech	13	10	34	16
Cervical Glands	27	11	126	69
Heart and Circulation	5	3	61	15
Lungs	16	3	112	35
Developmental—				
(a) Hernia	5	5	25	4
(b) Other	7	2	50	7
Orthopaedic—				
(a) Posture	22	5	63	22
(b) Flat foot	21	12	62	20
(c) Other	58	16	165	59
Nervous System—				
(a) Epilepsy	1	—	10	3
(b) Other	1	3	8	3
Psychological—				
(a) Development	25	19	14	15
(b) Stability	17	6	52	34
Other	13	9	90	36
TOTALS	792	383	1,587	623

The number of individual children found to require treatment at periodic and special inspections was 1,092.

TABLE II.—NUMBERS INSPECTED IN THE ROUTINE AGE GROUPS
IN 1951, DIVIDED ACCORDING TO GENERAL CONDITION.

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants	2,269	493	21.7	1,702	75.0	74	3.3
Second Age Group	1,886	486	25.8	1,338	70.9	62	3.3
Third Age Group ...	1,402	423	30.2	946	67.5	33	2.3
TOTALS ...	5,557	1,402	25.2	3,986	71.8	169	3.0

It must be borne in mind that the figures are composite, being derived from those of a number of examining medical officers. It would be difficult to evaluate them precisely, but at the very least, it appears justifiable to conclude that the general condition of the school children is quite satisfactory.

TABLE III

The following table shows details of cleanliness inspections carried out by the school nurses during the years 1949 to 1951:—

	No. of examinations			No. of instances of uncleanness			No. of unclean children who were excluded			% of the children examined found unclean			No. of visits to schools								
													1st inspections			2nd inspections			All inspections		
	1949	1950	1951	1949	1950	1951	1949	1950	1951	1949	1950	1951	1949	1950	1951	1949	1950	1951			
March ...	21,620	21,030	16,254	285	160	99	81	23	18	1.32	0.76	0.61	141	143	140	77	66	16	218	209	156
June ...	17,577	17,418	17,216	179	208	128	48	57	30	1.02	1.19	0.74	145	143	137	24	31	15	169	174	152
Sept. ...	16,349	15,509	15,163	175	141	124	17	26	16	1.07	0.91	0.82	135	136	130	38	17	5	173	153	135
Dec. ...	14,903	13,571	12,031	119	87	73	13	12	11	0.71	0.64	0.61	139	117	89	11	13	8	150	130	97
TOTALS	70,449	67,528	60,664	745	596	424	159	118	75	1.06	0.88	0.70	560	539	496	150	127	44	710	666	540

Total number of Individual Pupils found unclean	...	...	...	525	414	269
Percentage of Individual Pupils found unclean of Total School Population	...	...	...	3.09	2.4	1.5

These figures compare very favourably with those published by the Ministry of Education for 1949 for the country as a whole, when the number of individual children found to be infested equalled 8 per cent of the total number of children on the school registers.

Since 1949 all schoolchildren in the County area have been regularly inspected by the school nurses and there is no doubt that this fact has contributed to the decrease in the number of individual children found to be unclean. In this work the teachers have played a large part. Other factors affecting the incidence of uncleanliness are the gradual re-housing of overcrowded families and the education of the public in personal hygiene.

Fifteen cleansing notices under Section 54(2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1944, were issued. There are facilities for cleansing children at the school clinics, and in the Bedford area the Bedford Cleansing Station is used.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

TABLE IV.—TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN CHILDREN AGED 5-14 YEARS NOTIFIED AND CONFIRMED DURING 1951

	Bedford Borough	Luton Borough	Remainder of County	Totals
Scarlet Fever	26	53	52	131
Whooping Cough	95	119	218	432
Poliomyelitis	—	3	3	6
Measles	72	445	432	949
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	9	3	14	26
Dysentery	3	4	11	18
Paratyphoid	—	—	3	3
Food poisoning	—	3	1	4
TOTALS	205	630	734	1,569

Three of the confirmed cases of poliomyelitis were notified as being of the paralytic type.

This information has been extracted from the Quarterly Returns submitted by the District Medical Officers.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Taking the whole Administrative County, the position at the 31st December, 1951, as regards children aged 5–14 years was that 78 per cent were known to have been immunised.

No case of diphtheria occurred during the year amongst children of school age, and for the fifth year in succession, there were no deaths from diphtheria in this County.

TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications of Tuberculosis

TABLE V.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGED 0–14 YEARS ON THE
TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER AT 31.12.51.

District	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Bedford Borough ...	16	16	32	9	4	13
Luton Borough ...	58	33	91	21	26	47
Remainder of County	26	30	56	45	43	88
TOTALS ...	100	79	179	75	73	148

TABLE VI.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGED 0–14 YEARS NOTIFIED
DURING 1951 AS SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY
AND NON-PULMONARY.

District	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Bedford Borough ...	1	5	6	3	—	3
Luton Borough ...	10	3	13	2	6	8
Remainder of County	7	4	11	13	16	29
TOTALS ...	18	12	30	18	22	40

These cases are also included in Table V.

TREATMENT OF DEFECTS

(a) Minor Ailments

During the year the Clinics at Dunstable and Houghton Regis continued in operation. Conditions for which treatment was given and the number of attendances of children for treatment are shown in the following table.

TABLE VII.—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS AT SCHOOL CLINICS DURING 1951.

Defect								Number Treated
Skin—								
Ringworm (body)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Other Skin diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Eye Diseases—								
(External and other, but excluding errors of refraction, squint and cases admitted to hospital)								51
Ear Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous—								
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)								869
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	963
Total number of attendances								2,330

Cases of ringworm of the scalp are referred to hospital for treatment.

(b) Child Guidance

The work of the service throughout the year was handicapped by the inability to recruit a lay psycho-therapist to help with the treatment of the children and by the absence of an educational psychologist.

In addition to the children referred to the service by the School Medical Officers and family doctors, 36 children were examined by the psychiatrist at the request of magistrates of juvenile courts.

In 1948 the Committee approved in principle of the establishment of a hostel for maladjusted children. It was felt that such a hostel would be a most useful adjunct to the Child Guidance Clinics.

The Ministry of Education approved the project and in April, 1951, "Heathwood", Leighton Buzzard, was opened. Boys up to the age of 11 and girls up to the age of 16 are admitted. At the end of the year 15 children were at the Hostel, this being the maximum number approved by the Ministry at the present time. The Hostel is visited by the Council's Psychiatrist at suitable intervals.

TABLE VIII.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN SEEN AT CHILD GUIDANCE CLINICS FOR VARIOUS REASONS IN 1951, SUB-DIVIDED ACCORDING TO ACTION TAKEN.

Reason	Total No. seen	No. Treated	No. Awaiting Treatment	Psychiatric Social Worker Consultations	Psychiatrist Consultations
Delinquency ...	28	—	—	—	28
Difficult behaviour ...	30	6	7	4	13
Educational difficulties	7	2	1	—	4
Anxiety ...	3	2	1	—	—
Psychosomatic ...	15	6	1	3	5
TOTALS ...	83	16	10	7	50

TABLE IX.—THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTELLIGENCE AND THE REASON FOR WHICH CHILDREN WERE SEEN AT THE CHILD GUIDANCE CLINICS IN 1951.

Reason for Examination	Total No. of children seen	Intelligence Quotient				
		—80	80–99	100–119	120 plus	Not tested
Delinquency ...	28	8	15	4	1	—
Difficult behaviour ...	30	—	11	11	4	4
Educational difficulties	7	1	4	2	—	—
Anxiety ...	3	—	1	—	1	1
Psychosomatic ...	15	1	5	5	4	—
TOTALS ...	83	10	36	22	10	5

TABLE X.—RESULTS AND DISPOSAL OF CASES TREATED AT
CHILD GUIDANCE CLINICS IN 1951.

Result and Disposal									Number
Improved ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Unco-operative ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Still under treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Supervision by Psychiatric Social Worker	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Removed—									
(a) To special schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) To "Heathwood"	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

(c) Orthoptic Treatment

For the first seven months of the year three sessions a week were held at the Bedford Clinic for children in the Borough and north of the County. The work, however, increased to such an extent that it became necessary from August to hold two more sessions at Bedford making a total of five sessions a week. For children in the south of the County excluding the Borough of Luton, one session a week was held at the Dallow Road Clinic, Luton.

TABLE XI.—DETAILS OF CASES SEEN AT THE ORTHOPTIC CLINICS
IN 1951.

Clinic	New Cases	No. Treated	No. Discharged	Condition on Discharge			No. still on waiting list	No. of Attendances
				Cured	Improved	No progress		
Bedford ...	56	77	61	17	31	13	39	1,324
South Bedfordshire	24	20	20	10	5	5	24	396
TOTALS ...	80	97	81	27	36	18	63	1,720

(d) Speech Therapy

During 1951 five sessions were held each week for County Area children at the Bedford Bromham Road Clinic and two sessions a week at the Dunstable Health Centre. The total number of attendances was 1,378. The Speech Therapist also visited schools to discuss individual children with teachers, and to advise on speech defects.

TABLE XII.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN TREATED FOR SPEECH DEFECTS DURING 1951, TOGETHER WITH RESULTS OF TREATMENT.

Condition	No. Treated	Total No. Discharged	Condition on Discharge		
			Cured	Improved	No Change
Dyslalia with no mental retardation	65	37	23	9	5
Dyslalia with accompanying mental retardation	11	6	—	5	1
Cleft Palate	2	1	—	1	—
Partial deafness—for lip reading also	2	2	—	1	1
Physical defect	1	—	—	—	—
Stammer	30	17	8	6	3
TOTALS	111	63	31	22	10

(e) Sunlight Treatment

Two children attended Dunstable Health Centre in 1951 for Ultra Violet Light treatment for general debility. They made 32 attendances.

(f) Ophthalmic Treatment

During the year appointments were made for 536 schoolchildren to be examined by Ophthalmic Surgeons for refractions, squints and other eye conditions.

(g) Occupational Therapy

Children who suffer from severe spastic and other crippling conditions are often debarred by their physical limitations from many of the normal activities of childhood. The Occupational Therapist visits the homes of these children to see whether anything can be done to widen their interests and activities.

(h) Hospital Treatment

Where children need special investigation (other than ophthalmic examinations) they are referred to hospital out-patient departments only after prior consultation with the family doctor, upon whom rests the responsibility for general medical care. During the year, 238 children were referred to hospitals in the area through the School Health Service.

TABLE XIII. THE FOLLOWING TABLE GIVES DETAILS OF THE HOSPITALS AND CLINICS TO WHICH CHILDREN WERE REFERRED.

Name of Hospital	E.N.T. Clinic	Orthopaedic Clinic	Miscellaneous Clinics
Bedford General	49	64	21
Luton and Dunstable ...	36	36	6
North Herts. and South Beds.	11	5	1
Royal Buckinghamshire ...	2	—	1
West Herts.	—	1	1
Addenbrookes	1	3	—
TOTALS	99	109	30

Tonsils and Adenoids

The position regarding the waiting period for the admission to hospitals in the County of children requiring operative treatment for tonsils and adenoids improved during 1951. One of the reasons for the improvement was the fact that in 1951 the incidence of poliomyelitis was not large enough to make it necessary to postpone operations.

A review of all children on the waiting lists was carried out by both the Bedford and Luton hospitals.

EXAMINATIONS UNDER SECTIONS 34, 57 AND 59

Section 34

This section of the Education Act, 1944 places a duty on Local Education Authorities to ascertain those children in their area who require special educational treatment.

During 1951, 151 children thought to require special educational treatment were examined and the following recommendations made:—

Partially Deaf	For Special School	1
Delicate	For convalescence at open air schools and holiday homes ...	11
Educationally Sub-normal ...	For special schools	29
	For ordinary school with special educational treatment ...	13
Epileptic	To attend ordinary school ...	1
	For private tuition	1

Maladjusted	...	...	...	To Child Guidance Clinic	...	46
Physically Handicapped	...	...	...	For special schools	...	3
				For private tuition	...	2
Extra tuition in reading and writing	...	...	...	...	...	9
Referred to Children's Officer	...	...	...	...	...	1
To be re-examined later	...	...	...	...	...	13
Re-examinations	...	...	...	...	...	6
Reports to Local Health Authority—						
(a) Section 57(3)	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Section 57(5)	...	...	...	...	...	3
No action	...	...	...	...	...	9
Examined for another Authority	...	...	...	...	...	1

In addition, 35 children were examined at the request of magistrates of Juvenile Courts.

Section 57 (3)

In the County, excluding the Borough of Luton, 11 children were found to be suffering from a disability of mind of such a nature or to such an extent as to make them incapable of receiving education at school.

In each case a report to this effect was issued to the Local Health Authority.

Section 57 (5)

Under this Section of the Act, 4 children suffering from a disability of mind of such a nature or to such an extent as to require supervision after leaving school were reported to the Local Health Authority.

Section 59

Every child to be employed must be medically examined to ensure that the employment will not be prejudicial to his health or physical development and will not render him unfit to obtain proper benefit from his education.

224 children were examined during 1951 and certificates of fitness were granted in all cases except one.

TABLE XIV.—NUMBER OF HANDICAPPED PUPILS WHO IN 1951 WERE EITHER NEWLY PLACED BY THE AUTHORITY IN BOARDING OR HOSPITAL SPECIAL SCHOOLS OR HOMES; OR NEWLY ASCERTAINED AS REQUIRING EDUCATION AT SPECIAL SCHOOLS OR BOARDING IN HOMES.

Category	No. of Handicapped Pupils who in 1951 were:—	
	(a) Newly placed	(b) Newly ascertained
Blind	—	—
Partially Sighted	2	1
Deaf	1	—
Partially Deaf	—	1
Delicate	17	17
Physically Handicapped	—	—
Educationally Sub-Normal	26	45
Maladjusted	11	10
Epileptic	3	1
TOTALS	60	75

In addition to the children listed, arrangements were made through the hospital service for the admission of 58 children to Hospital Special Schools. The cost of educating these children is borne by the Authority.

TABLE XV.—SHOWING THE POSITION IN REGARD TO HANDICAPPED PUPILS AS AT 1ST DECEMBER, 1951.

Category	Number of Handicapped Pupils who on 1st December, 1951, were:—					
	(A) Attending Boarding or Hospital Special Schools	(B) Boarded in Homes	(C) Attending Independent Schools under arrangements made by the Authority	(D) Totals of (A) (B) and (C)	(E) Receiving education at home under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944	(F) Requiring places in Special Schools, including those unplaced children who were receiving home tuition
Blind	2	—	—	2	—	—
Partially Sighted	3	—	—	3	1	—
Deaf	10	—	—	10	—	—
Partially Deaf	5	—	—	5	—	1
Delicate	5	—	2	7	2	3
Physically Handicapped	5	—	5	10	5	4
Educationally Sub-normal	74	—	2	76	—	79
Maladjusted	2	8	9	19	—	5
Epileptic	6	—	—	6	—	—
TOTALS	112	8	18	138	8	92

Children suffering from multiple disabilities are classified under the major disability.

MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME.

All schools in the County area received milk under the Milk in Schools Scheme and every endeavour was made to secure a designated supply to each. This was not possible in all cases, however, but out of a total of 146 maintained schools in the County area, only 6 were supplied with non-designated milk.

Each term during the year, a sample of milk was taken for bacteriological examination from every retailer supplying milk to the schools in the County area and the results of the examinations are set out below:—

TABLE XVI.—NUMBER OF SAMPLES OF MILK TAKEN FROM SCHOOLS AND SUBMITTED FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DURING 1951.

Bacteriological Samples	Routine Samples			First Follow-up			Second Follow-up			Third Follow-up			Totals
	Sat.	Unsat.	Total	Sat.	Unsat.	Total	Sat.	Unsat.	Total	Sat.	Unsat.	Total	
Quarter ended—													
31st March, 1951 ...	81	3	84	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	86
30th June, 1951 ...	76	23	99	6	2	8	1	—	1	—	—	—	108
30th September, 1951 ...	39	19	58	2	4	6	1	—	1	—	—	—	65
31st December, 1951 ...	60	8	68	1	2	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	72
TOTALS ...	256	53	309	11	8	19	3	—	3	—	—	—	331

A return is made to the Ministry of Education every four months giving details of the number and percentages of pupils taking milk in relation to the total number present in the schools on the day selected for the return. The following table is based on this information, and for the purposes of comparison, the details for 1949 and 1950 are also given. The percentage of pupils taking milk has declined slightly during the period 1949-1951.

TABLE XVII.—NUMBER AND PERCENTAGES OF PUPILS TAKING MILK IN RELATION TO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PUPILS PRESENT.

	No. of pupils present			No. of pupils taking milk			Percentage of pupils taking milk		
	1949	1950	1951	1949	1950	1951	1949	1950	1951
February ...	14,497	14,884	16,026	12,460	12,038	11,956	85.9	80.9	74.6
June ...	15,577	15,808	16,288	13,123	13,042	12,722	84.2	82.5	78.1
October ...	15,778	16,170	16,926	12,943	12,885	12,818	82.0	79.7	75.7

REPORT OF THE SENIOR DENTAL OFFICER

There were no changes in dental staff during the year. Three full-time and one part-time dental surgeons continued in the Service. They are insufficient to maintain regular routine inspections and treatment, and this no doubt accounts for the increasing demand for emergency treatment.

9,400 children were inspected in 1951 and of these 5,831 were referred for treatment and about 74 per cent received treatment.

In November, the Dentists Bill was placed before Parliament. Local Authority Health Services may in time be affected by one of the proposals contained in the Bill. This proposal deals with the training and employment of dental ancillaries, and in order that the value to the community of a class of ancillary workers undertaking dental work which includes extraction and filling of teeth may be judged, the General Dental Council will, after consulting the Privy Council, arrange a scheme for the training of a number of persons and for obtaining employment for those who attain the necessary standard of proficiency in the National and Local Authority health services. The General Dental Council will, not later than three years after the start of the Scheme, make an interim report to the Privy Council. If, following this experiment, a class of ancillary dental workers of this kind is recognised and established, the workers will be employed only in hospitals and public dental clinics and they will work under the supervision of a registered dentist. The service would be similar to the one which has been operating in New Zealand since 1921. Even if the scheme is adopted, it will be several years before the School Dental Service will benefit.

TABLE XVIII.—NUMBER OF PUPILS INSPECTED AND TREATMENT
GIVEN BY DENTAL SURGEONS DURING 1951.

Pupils inspected—							
Periodic age groups	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,582
Specials	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,818
							9,400
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,400
Number found to require treatment			...	...	...	...	6,198
Number referred for treatment		...	...	...	...	...	5,831
Number actually treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,331
Attendances made by pupils for treatment				...	...	...	6,105
Half-days devoted to—							
Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	898

Fillings—

Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,798
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	357
							<hr/>
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,155

Number of Teeth filled—

Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,658
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	347
							<hr/>
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,005

Extractions—

Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	732
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,602
							<hr/>
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,334

Administration of general anaesthetics for extractions	2,124
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Other operations—

Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,539
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
							<hr/>
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,628

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
of the
BEDFORD DIVISIONAL EXECUTIVE
for the Year 1951

STAFF

Divisional School Medical Officer

G. K. BOWES, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officer

FRANCES ANNE WILLIAMS, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.(Vict.).

Divisional School Dental Officer

V. A. VASEY, L.D.S., R.C.S.Eng.

School Nurses

MRS. D. DAVIDSON, S.R.N.

MRS. I. COOMBS, S.R.N., S.C.M.

There were no changes in the staff during the year. Specialist members of the staff whose services are available over the County generally are given in the report of the County School Medical Officer.

GENERAL STATISTICS

The average school population for the year was 5,847, in comparison with 5,719 for the previous year.

There are 19 school departments in the Borough area.

<i>Type of School</i>	<i>Number of Schools</i>	<i>Number on Roll</i>
Nursery	1	41
Infant	6	1,457
Primary Junior Mixed	5	1,782
Primary Junior Mixed and Infant ...	2	753
Primary Mixed, All Ages, 5-15 years ...	1	259
Secondary Modern*	4	1,555
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	19	5,847
	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTE*

Mixed	2
Boys	1
Girls	1

A new school, Kingsbrook Primary Junior Mixed, with accommodation for 320 was opened in April, 1951, in order to serve the growing needs of the London Road area and to replace the temporary accommodation at the Silver Jubilee School. Considerable extensions, which are still in progress, were begun at the Goldington Green Primary Junior Mixed and Infant School so as ultimately to provide accommodation for 280.

SCOPE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION

The scope and general principles of school medical inspection remained as in former years.

The following figures show the numbers inspected during the year under review, with the figures for the previous year given for comparison.

	1950	1951
Inspections in prescribed groups	2,039	1,709
Special inspections at schools	26	21
Special inspections at clinics	279	304
Re-inspections	1,215	874

The change in character of the work is shown by comparison of the number of special inspections at the clinics in 1951, 304, with that in 1948, 653, before the full effect of the National Health Service Act was felt. Many children who would formerly have attended the school clinic now attend the family doctor. Many attendances now are for such special purposes as ultra violet light, convalescent home treatment, or symptoms of maladjustment requiring attendance at the Child Guidance Clinic.

MEDICAL TREATMENT

There was no change in arrangements since the previous year.

CONDITIONS FOUND ON INSPECTIONS.

NUTRITION AND GENERAL PHYSIQUE

It is a commonplace that the nutrition of children generally is much better than it was before the war.

I am indebted to the Education Officer for the following figures relating to school milk and meals.

RETURNS MADE TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Date of Return	MILK		MEALS		
	Number receiving milk	Percentage	Number receiving meals	Number (included in previous column) receiving meals free of charge	Percentage receiving meals
February 1951	4,069	% 82.1	2,653	160	% 54.1
June 1951	4,619	83.3	2,835	193	51.1
October 1951	4,907	87.7	2,831	164	50.6

Medical inspection, especially among the elder girls, seemed to reveal some cases of habitual bad posture, pallor and other signs of fatigue. It would perhaps be unfair to attribute all this to late nights caused by television, which is after all simply the last of many developments of modern life all tending in the same direction, but there can be little doubt that many children do sit up late and do not get enough sleep, with bad effect on their health and no doubt on their school work; but it is difficult to suggest any practical remedy.

UNCLEANLINESS

Again, the number of children found unclean, 121, stands at a very low percentage, namely 2.1 per cent as compared with 15.6 per cent a decade ago. This improvement is to be attributed to higher standards of life and cleanliness generally, to the effect of the new insecticides and to the real enthusiasm of the school nurses. It was not felt necessary to take legal action in any case. Fifty-three children were voluntarily cleansed at the Treatment Centre of the Borough of Bedford Public Health Committee.

MINOR AILMENTS

GENERAL

The following table shows the attendances at school clinics for the years from 1948.

	1948	1949	1950	1951
Attendances	6,660	4,802	3,637	2,538
Number of individual children attending	1,147	1,026	984	769

The decline which has been mentioned in earlier reports has continued. No doubt the greater part of this decline is due to the fact that children now obtain treatment for minor ailments elsewhere under the arrangements of the National Health Service Act. Part may also be attributed to a real decline, on account of better nutrition, improved health generally and greater cleanliness, in such conditions as impetigo and discharging ears, which once formed a large proportion of attendances.

RINGWORM

No cases of ringworm of the scalp were discovered, and only two of ringworm of the body.

SCABIES

Five cases only were discovered, all of which received treatment at the Bedford Borough Treatment Centre.

IMPETIGO

Only 28 children with this complaint received treatment during the year. This is only a small fraction of the number which used to attend for treatment in past years; and severe cases of the old type are practically unknown. This decline must be attributed to better nutrition, greater cleanliness, and improved conditions of life generally. Modern methods of treatment also effect a more rapid cure.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT

GENERAL

Hospital treatment generally is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board.

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS AND ALLIED CONDITIONS

40 children were referred for consultation on these conditions to the Ear, Nose and Throat Department at the Bedford General Hospital. 88 in all were ascertained to have received treatment during the year, of whom 59 were referred for treatment in 1950.

Apart from those cases where deafness or ear disease appeared to be associated with diseased tonsils or adenoids, 8 children were referred to hospital for deafness or ear disease.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

MEASLES

72 cases of measles occurred during the year among children of school age, not all of whom, however, attended schools of the Local Education Authority.

SCARLET FEVER

31 cases occurred among children attending schools in the Borough, a low prevalence.

DIPHTHERIA

For some years in succession no cases of diphtheria have occurred among school children.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS

No cases occurred among school children.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The policy relating to diphtheria immunisation remained unchanged.

The following table shows the work carried out among school children from all types of schools.

				<i>Received full course</i>	<i>Received single reinforcing injections</i>
Age 3– 5 years	...	...	...	41	186
Age 5–10 years	...	...	...	110	377
Age 10–15 years	...	...	...	18	198
Age 15 years and over		...	...	—	2
				<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	...	...	...	169	763
				<hr/>	<hr/>

It is estimated that 70 per cent of all children of school age had at some time or other received a full immunising course.

SPECIAL FORMS OF TREATMENT

ULTRA VIOLET LIGHT TREATMENT

The following table shows a summary of the work carried out at the centres.

			<i>Sessions held</i>	<i>Total treatments</i>	<i>Number of individual children treated</i>
3, Brereton Road	...	...	123	1,460	129
29, Barford Avenue	...	...	87	1,492	126

The following table shows the conditions treated; in most cases with very considerable benefit.

<i>Condition for which treatment was given</i>							<i>Number of children treated</i>
Diseases of the ear, nose and throat	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
General debility	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Conditions of the lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Diseases of the skin	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Rheumatism	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Poor appetite	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
External eye complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Malnutrition	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Anaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Enlarged cervical glands	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nervous illnesses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other defects and diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	21

ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

Treatment is undertaken for children with minor defects at the Bedford Physical Training College. 8 children were referred during the year.

Children requiring more special treatment or advice are referred to the Orthopaedic Department at the Bedford General Hospital. 8 children were so referred.

SPEECH THERAPY

45 children received treatment from the Speech Therapist during the year.

The following table gives details.

Number of individual children treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Number of attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	553
Results—							
Cured	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Benefited	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
No improvement	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Children who require special educational treatment on account of some physical handicap, some defect of the sense organs, or mental retardation, are usually dealt with directly by the County Education Committee and the figures relating to such children are given in the report of the County School Medical Officer.

DISABILITY OF MIND

50 children were examined. The following table shows the diagnosis in accordance with which recommendations were made.

No disability of mind	...	...	...	...	2
Maladjusted ...	...	...	...	...	15
Educationally subnormal	...	...	...	...	28
Maladjusted and educationally subnormal				...	2
Unfit for education within the school system				...	3

13 of the children examined were resident at the Howard Home, a Residential Institution for mentally retarded children under the control of Dr. Barnardo's Homes. All these were found to be educationally subnormal. The examinations were undertaken at the request of the authorities of the Home in order formally to ascertain the suitability of the children on reaching the age of 11 for schools for the educationally subnormal.

15 children were resident at the end of the year at St. Margaret's School, Great Gaddesden, which is under the control of the Bedfordshire County Council and is for the education of educationally subnormal children.

Maladjusted children are usually referred to the Child Guidance Clinic and details are given in the report of the County School Medical Officer.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

The scheme of dental inspection and treatment remained as in former years. The figures show a decline on those for previous years on account of the prolonged ill-health of the School Dental Officer.

The Divisional School Dental Officer reports as follows:—

During the year there was no change in the position regarding dental treatment. There is still an influx of children attending for casual treatment which to a certain extent disorganises the anaesthetic clinics, and this causes a delay in the treatment of routine cases who may have been waiting some time, but one cannot see any remedy for this, and it will, doubtless, be a very long time before things can settle themselves owing to the amount of work to be done.

Unfortunately during the year the writer has had prolonged periods of illness which has made it impossible for him to do the treatments and inspections he would have wished, but every effort is being made to give as efficient a service as possible.

On the whole the condition of the teeth of the children continues to be good and the occurrence of a really bad case of dental disease is very

rare, and it is a very good thing that so many people nowadays are very concerned about the condition of their children's teeth and make efforts to have any necessary treatment.

The School Dental Officer desires to thank the School Medical Officers and their staff for their help during the year.

(Signed) V. A. VASEY,

Divisional School Dental Officer.

CONCLUSION

General impressions are perhaps more trustworthy than figures, which are often difficult to interpret and after all often mean very little, especially when they themselves are based merely on personal opinions and general impressions. It is certainly a general impression that the physical condition, health, nutrition, and cleanliness of children has improved very much as compared with a few years ago. Most of this improvement is of course entirely independent of the school health service or indeed of medical services generally. It is not denied that some good results are achieved still by the school health service, but some of these results seem more and more to require an entirely disproportionate amount of time and labour, which might perhaps be better spent. A like criticism might also be made, and in fact has been made, of the present health service generally. More and more does the writer receive the impression that he is dealing with defects (all catalogued as such and as requiring treatment) which have already been discovered and for which treatment has already been arranged by the family doctor. This is true even of the entrants to school. Among the higher age groups defects are far fewer and untreated defects rather a rarity. Under the present system it is difficult to see how the duplication just referred to can be avoided. These remarks are made not to suggest practical remedies or reform but that they may be borne in mind in reading the tables which follow.

STATISTICAL TABLES

relating to the work of the

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

(Bedford Divisional Executive)

FOR THE YEAR 1951

For the purpose of comparison figures relating to the previous year are given

TABLE I.—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Return of Children Inspected 1st January to 31st December, 1951.

A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

No. of Inspections in the Prescribed Groups	1950	1951
Entrants	784	864
Second Age Group	783	528
Third Age Group	472	317
TOTALS	2,039	1,709

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

					1950	1951
Number of Special Inspections	...	...	...	...	305	325
Number of Re-Inspections	...	...	...	...	1,215	874
TOTALS	...	...	...	...	1,520	1,199

C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to Require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

Group (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint) (2)		For any of the conditions recorded in Table 11A (3)		Total individual pupils (4)	
	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951
Entrants ...	2	3	165	174	167	177
Second Age Group	19	14	37	37	56	51
Third Age Group	24	16	15	10	38	26
TOTALS ...	45	33	217	221	261	254

TABLE II.—A—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1951.

Defect or Disease (1)	Periodic Inspections—No. of defects			Special Inspections—No. of defects				
	Requiring treatment (2)		Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment (3)	Requiring treatment (4)		Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment (5)		
	1950	1951		1950	1951			
	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951		
Skin ...	6	8	7	2	23	17	2	3
Eyes—								
(a) Vision ...	45	33	5	9	57	60	2	6
(b) Squint ...	9	11	11	8	4	4	—	—
(c) Other ...	—	7	5	4	7	6	—	1
Ears—								
(a) Hearing ...	13	13	5	5	4	13	—	—
(b) Otitis Media ...	—	4	3	3	2	2	—	—
(c) Other ...	5	—	9	3	5	4	1	1
Nose or Throat ...	79	128	130	94	47	50	5	4
Speech ...	1	3	7	1	1	7	—	1
Cervical Glands ...	2	—	4	1	3	—	1	2
Heart and Circulation ...	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	—
Lungs ...	66	17	29	9	11	14	1	1
Developmental—								
(a) Hernia ...	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
(b) Other ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic—								
(a) Posture ...	8	2	6	18	2	4	—	—
(b) Flat foot ...	1	5	6	—	4	2	1	—
(c) Other ...	8	10	21	9	8	7	—	—
Nervous System—								
(a) Epilepsy ...	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—
(b) Other ...	2	1	4	—	2	—	2	—
Psychological—								
(a) Development ...	3	—	—	2	12	7	—	—
(b) Stability ...	1	1	1	6	17	12	2	1
Other ...	13	28	61	39	54	68	24	26

**B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS
INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR 1951 IN THE AGE GROUPS.**

Age Groups	No. of Pupils Inspected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	864	106	12.3	740	85.6	18	2.1
Second Age Group	528	106	20.1	418	79.2	4	.8
Third Age Group ...	317	117	36.9	196	61.8	4	1.3
TOTAL ...	1,709	329	19.3	1,354	79.2	26	1.5

TABLE III.—INFESTATION

	1950	1951
(1) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses	16,671	17,017
* (2) Total number of individual pupils examined ...	—	5,784
(3) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	146	121
(4) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944)	—	—
(5) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)	—	—

* The information in (2) is a new requirement of the Ministry of Education.

**TABLE IV.—TREATMENT OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.**

**GROUP 1.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN (excluding uncleanness, for
which see Table III).**

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year			
	By the Authority		Otherwise	
	1950	1951	1950	1951
Ringworm—(1) Scalp	—	—	1	—
(2) Body	9	2	—	—
Scabies	2	5	—	—
Impetigo	14	28	—	—
Other skin diseases	19	6	—	—
TOTALS	44	41	1	—

GROUP 2.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT

	Number of cases dealt with by the Authority	
	1950	1951
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	25	30
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	287	260
TOTALS	312	290
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were—		
(a) Prescribed	153	152
(b) Obtained	111	Not known
TOTALS	264	152

GROUP 3.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

	Number of cases treated			
	By the Authority		Otherwise	
	1950	1951	1950	1951
Received operative treatment—				
(a) for diseases of the ear	—	—	—	—
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	—	—	58	88
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	—	—	—	—
Received other forms of treatment ...	193	138	13	8
TOTALS	193	138	71	96

GROUP 4.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

	1950	1951
(a) Number treated as in-patients in hospitals	1	1
(b) Number treated otherwise, e.g., in clinics or out-patient departments	25	16

GROUP 5.—SPEECH THERAPY

	Number of cases treated by the Authority	
	1950	1951
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists	38	45

GROUP 6.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN

	Number of cases treated by the Authority	
	1950	1951
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments	857	660

